

H. S. DEBNATH* & M. P. NAYAR**: A new species of
Meconopsis Vig. (Papaveraceae) from Nepal

H. S. デブナス*・M. P. ナヤール**: ネパール産
Meconopsis (ケシ科) の 1 新種

While studying the specimens of *Meconopsis* from British Museum the authors came across specimens (Troth 947, 980) from Nepal which could not match with any species described so far. Taylor (An account of the genus *Meconopsis* i-x, 1-130, pl. 1-29, 1934) added modifications of the existing classification and established two subgenera Eumeconopsis and Discogyne. On the basis of habit, flower colour and pubescence, he recognized three sections Cambriae, Eucathcartia and Polychaetia. Among them, Eucathcartia comprises two series and subsection Cumminsia of Polychaetia is composed of six series. The affinity of our material is rather uncertain because the devoid of persistent dense rosette leaves prescribed the taxon for subsection Cumminsia under the section Polychaetia, the position of the flowers in the axils of the upperstem leaves or solitary flower on a leafy peduncle bring it closer to series Primuliniae from which it differs more than 7.5 cm long tap root. But it is considered appropriate to assign the species to the series Primuliniae close to *Meconopsis florindae* and *M. lyrata*.

The species is named after Rebecca G. Troth who collected this specimen for the first time from middle Nepal.

Meconopsis rebecca H. S. Debnath et Nayar, sp. nov.

Affinis *Meconopsis florindae*, sed radixis tapeformibus, +3.5 cm longis floribus 1-4, ovario hirsuto, capsulo dense setoso differt.

Typus: Middle Nepal, south of Annapurna, above Siklis, $28^{\circ}07' \pm 01'E$, ca 2600 m, 28 Aug. 1976, Troth 947 (Holotypus, BM); Ibid, Troth 980 (Paratypus, BM).

Menocarpic herbs. Taproots stout, upto 15 cm long. Stems 75-100 cm tall, slender, leafy, sparsely hairy throughout. No basal leaves. Leaves 15-25 cm long, oblong in outline, pinnatifolied to extremely pinnatipartite, giving general

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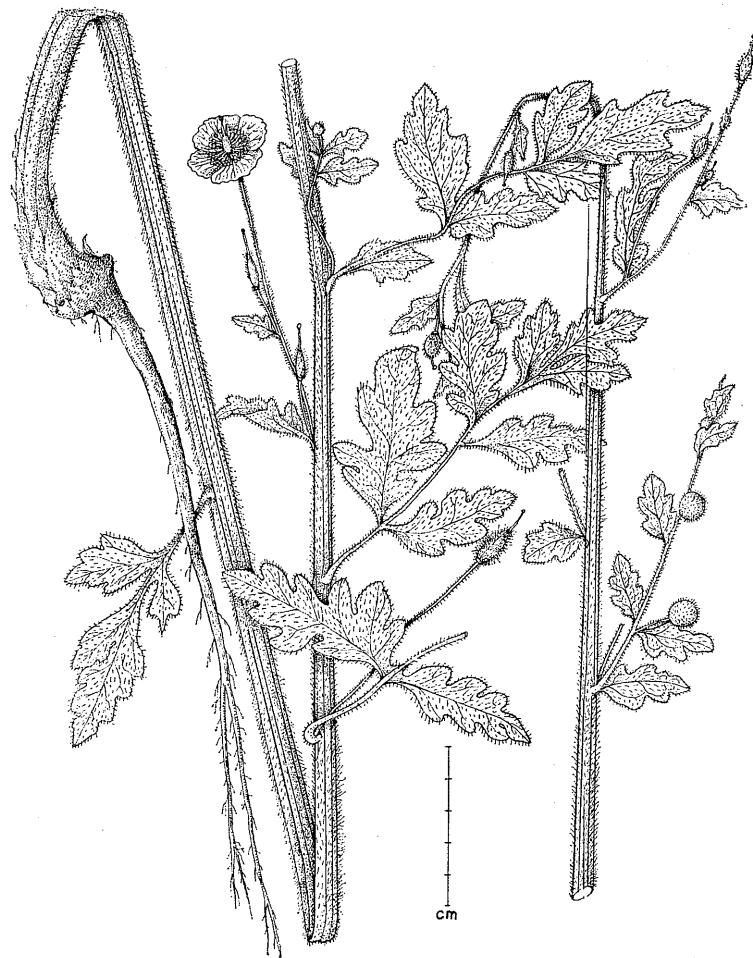


Fig. 1. *Meconopsis rebecca* H. S. Debnath et Nayar.

appearance of a compound leaves, often irregularly lobed, uppermost leaves pinnatisect, clothed with same type of hairs as on the stem, segments ovate-oblong, acute to obtuse at apex, margin entire or lobed, distance between the lobes 1-3 cm; petioles 2-8 cm long, hairy. Flowers numbering 1-4, semipendulous, arising in the axils of the leaves; pedicels attaining 3-10 cm long, slender, hairy,

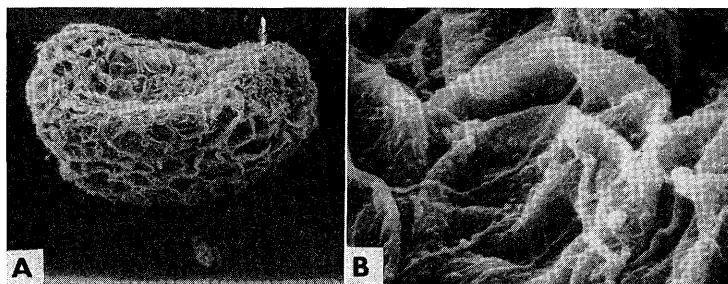


Fig. 2. Seeds of *Meconopsis rebeccae*. A: $\times 600$; B: $\times 7200$.

sparingly bristly immediately under the flowers; peduncles leafy, 3–5 cm long. Petals 4–6, ovate or obovate, rounded at the apex, slightly and irregularly denticulate, 1.0–1.5 \times 1.0–1.2 cm, pale yellow. Stamens numerous; filaments filiform, 0.9–1.2 cm long, orange in colour; anthers orange, 2 mm long. Ovary oblong to ellipsoid oblong, 0.4–0.5 cm long, densely clothed with yellowish bristles; styles slender, 0.3–0.4 cm long; stigmas capitate, slightly lobed. Capsules oblong, 1.0 to 2.5 cm long, densely bristly as on the ovary. Seeds 0.8–1.0 mm long, subreniform, in SEM seed surface appearing corallloid, epidermal cells inconspicuous, with numerous beads, epidermal cell boundaries appearing folded lamellae and overlapped with each other (Figs. 1 & 2).

Distribution and habitat. Recorded from south of Annapurna, middle Nepal at an altitude 2600 m. Grows in dark, moist mixed *Rhododendron arboreum* forest. Flowering is recorded in August.

It is seen that *Meconopsis rebeccae* is very closely related to *M. florindae* Kingdon-Ward but the presence of more than 3.5 cm long tap root, 1–4 numbered flowers, densely bristly ovary and capsules indicate that it is a distinct species. *M. lyrata* (Cummins & Prain) Fedde ex Prain is a related species, but it is characterized by the lack of pinnatilobed leaves and the presence of 1–4 numbered flowers, pale-yellow flowers and densely bristly ovary and capsules.

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ヒマラヤの *Meconopsis* については Taylor (1934) のモノグラフがあるが、これにはネパールの種類は、当時ネパールが鎖国であったため、残念ながら、不充分に研究されているに過ぎない。今回 BM から借用した標本のなかから、ネパール中部アンナプルナの南で採集された 1 新種を記載した。